

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Abstract of the Disclosure because of the use of legal phraseology. Applicants submit a new Abstract of the Disclosure with this response.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter, which Applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants have deleted claims 1-11 directed to a mounting article. The remaining claims in the application are directed to a pollution control device, which includes a mounting article disposed between a housing and a pollution control element. Claim 12 has been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claim 23 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. New claim 26 has been added to the application. The new claim is directed to the subject matter on page 6, lines 3-16, and Figs. 7A and 7B. New claim 27 is supported on page 9, lines 15-21. No new matter is added with the new claims.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 7-19, 21-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 61-89916. The Examiner averred that the reference discloses a mounting article, which includes sheet material with a plurality of score lines on the top and bottom surfaces of the sheet material. The Examiner also averred that the reference discloses score-lines which are disposed across the length or width of the sheet material as indicated in Fig. 1 of the reference.

Applicants' Response to the Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Applicants aver that the present invention is not anticipated by the JP 61-89916 reference. Applicants submit amended claim 12 for reconsideration by the Examiner. The claim has been amended to indicate that the score-lines in the mounting article are only in a direction which is parallel to the direction of gas flow through the pollution control element. Applicants aver that the direction of the score-lines is disclosed in the specification and the figures of the present application. Furthermore, the score-lines must be parallel to the gas flow upon placement of the mounting article around the pollution control element in order to achieve the advantageous surface tension relief noted in the specification.

The reference cited by the Examiner discloses a mat with concaves in grooves to reduce compressive pressure on a pollution control element. Fig. 2 of the reference indicates that the grooves extend transverse to the flow of gas through the pollution control element. Since the reference fails to suggest or claim the use of score-lines, which only extend in a direction parallel to the flow of gas through a pollution control element, such reference would not anticipate amended claim 12 of the present invention.

Applicants also contend that the Examiner's assertion that the reference discloses score-lines that are disposed across the length or width of the sheet material, as seen in Fig. 1, is improper. Fig. 1 merely discloses a singular mat in a flat position with grooves or channels extending across the mat. The Fig. does not indicate whether the channels extend the length or width. Furthermore, Fig. 2 of the reference suggests that the channels extend around the circumference of the monolith in the pollution control device. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of amended claim 12 and withdrawal of the rejection against the pending claims of record.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-4, 6, 9, 11-14, 17-19, 21, 22, 24, 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by JP 2-61313. The Examiner averred that the cited reference discloses a mounting article, which provides a sheet material having major top and bottom surfaces and a plurality of score-lines on the top and bottom surfaces of the sheet material. Additionally, the Examiner averred that reference discloses score-lines that are disposed across the length or width of the sheet material, and have a length less than the length of the sheet material.

Applicants' Response to the Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Applicants submit that the present invention is not anticipated by JP 2-61313. The reference cited by the Examiner discloses the use of holes and/or grooves formed in the surface of a buffer material to prevent the ceramic monolith from being pushed downstream during operation. The grooves noted by the Examiner, and indicated in Fig. 2 of the reference, show that the grooves extend partially across the mat and diagonally to the flow of gas through the monolith. Applicants further aver that the reference does not address the issue of whether the score-lines can extend across the width or length of the sheet material as suggested by the Examiner. The reference only shows grooves which extend diagonally across the mat. Since the grooves of the reference extend diagonally and do not extend only in the direction of gas flow through the pollution control element, such reference would not anticipate amended claim

12 of the present invention. Thus, Applicants submit claim 12 and dependent claims 13-27 are patentable over the reference cited by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 5-8, 10, 11, 15, 16, 19, 20, and 23 as being unpatentable over JP 61-89916 in view of JP 61313.

Applicants' Response to the Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentable over the references cited by the Examiner. Applicants have deleted claims 1-11 from the application. Independent claim 12 has been amended to overcome the 102 rejections set forth by the Examiner. Independent claim 12 is distinguished from the references for the foregoing reasons. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims 13-27 are patentable over the cited references in view of the amendment to claim 12. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.


Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration of the present application and the passing of this case to issue with all claims allowed is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any aspect of this application, Applicants' attorney suggests a telephone interview in order to expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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